the lowest bidder is awarded the work. In so far as selection of valuation method is conerned, all four methods mentioned in reply to paragraph (a) above are used to evaluate the company and for determination of the reserve price.

Sale of Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.

†15. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no consensus has emerged among different Ministries for the sale of Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a state of confrontation between Ministries of Petroleum, Heavy Industries and Finance have erupted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is a continuous process. Government keeps considering proposals for disinvestment in various PSUs from time to time through inter-Ministerial consultations. After considering all relevant viewpoints, Government takes a final decision about disinvesting a PSU in line with the approved policy. Similarly, in the case of Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., also, Government has decided to disinvest 61.8% equity held by Balmer Lawrie Investments & Co. Ltd. The process of disinvestment is currently on.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Evaluation of Amarkantak, Kavardh and Manipat Mines

†16. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not providing information regarding procedure of evaluation and outcome of the evaluation of Amarkantak, Kavardh and Manipat mines of BALCO and captive power plant of the company and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

land of rolling sheet plant and other assets to the Comptroller and Auditor General by the Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General has alleged in its primary report that his Ministry has misappropriated 320 crores of rupees in disinvestment of BALCO; and

(c) the complete details of explanation provided by his Ministry to Comptroller and Auditor General in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) All files/documents related to disinvestment in BALCO pertaining to the Ministry of Disinvestment were submitted to the CAG as soon as the audit work started. Additional information, clarifications etc. required by CAG officials from Advisors were also furnished as and when asked for.

(b) and (c) In October, 2001, the Comptroller and Auditor General made certain preliminary audit observations in its Draft Inspection Report on disinvestment of Government equity in BALCO. Government's comments thereto have been sent to the office of CAG in December, 2001 for enabling them to finalise their Inspection Report, which is still awaited.

Resentment and protests against disinvestment

17. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been widespread resentment and protests against disinvestment in profit making public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government;

(c) whether Government are contemplating review of disinvestment policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.